



BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - YEAR 1955.

Montgomery Borough Council, 1955 - Mayor (Councillor T.L.Morrall)
Aldermen J.D.K.Lloyd and A.Reg.Jones,
Councillors, W.H.Gornall, E.L.Griffiths,
G.W.Jellings, R.W.P.Humphreys and
A.Parrett.

Town Clerk, (Philip E.Jones, D.P.A.,)

Medical Officer of Health - John Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B.(Un.Aberd.) D.P.H.(Un.Ed.)
(Until 30th.April, 1955).

I.B.Millar, M.D., (Belf.) M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., (Belf.)
D.P.H.(Belf.) from 19th.December, 1955)

Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector - Frederick Hunt - Cert.S.I.B.,
M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

TO The Montgomery Borough Council:

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report
on Public Health in the Borough for the year 1955 as required by Statute.

The report is drawn up in accordance with the instruc-
tions contained in the Welsh Board of Health Circular No.17/55(Wales).

For the data relating to water, food, housing, sewerage
and other aspects of environmental public health (Section C.D. and E.) and for the
appropriate compilation of this information I am indebted to the Borough Public
Health Inspector.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

I.B.MILLAR.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough 3,390 acres.
Estimated Mid-Year population 840.
Number of Inhabited Houses 358.
(according to Rate Books)
Rateable Value £3,814.
Sum represented by a penny rate. £14.

POPULATION- The mid 1955 population estimate of 840 represents a gain of 20 on that
for 1954.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> -	Legitimate:	Male:	10
	"	Female:	5
	Illegitimate:	Female:	<u>1</u>
	Total:		<u>16</u>

NOTE: In actual fact only 8 of these births (7 male and 1 female) took
place in the Borough, the others presumably relating to births taking place in
hospitals.

Crude Birth Rate: 19.05 births per 1000 total population.
Corrected Birth Rate (for age and sex): 21.15 births per 1000
total population.

(Compared with provisional figures of 15.0 per 1000 total population
for England and Wales in 1955 and 14.9 for Montgomeryshire and
14.86 for Wales)

STILLBIRTHS: 1 (Legitimate, Male)

INFANT MORTALITY: NIL DEATHS: Male 5 Female 3 Total 8.

Crude Death Rate: 9.52 per 1000 total population.

Corrected Death Rate (for age and sex) : 7.24 per 1000 total population.

(Compared with the provisional figures of 11.7 for England and Wales for the year 1955 and 12.6 for Montgomeryshire and 13.04 for Wales).

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Infant Deaths.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
1948	896	16	1	-	12
1949	912	18	1	1	13
1950	915	11	-	2	22
1951	874	12	1	-	21
1952	834	13	-	2	11
1953	821	12	1	-	13
1954	820	14	-	-	13
1955	840	16	1	-	8

Average

for 1948-

1955. 864

14.6 .62 .62 14.1
per year. per year. per year. per year.

Average 1948-55 Crude birthrate - 16.9 per 1000 total population.
" " deathrate - 16.32

(If corrected for age and sex these figures are approximately 18.75 and 12.4 respectively.)

Average 1948-55 Infant Mortality Rate - 42.5 per 1000 live births.
" " Still Birth Rate - 40.9 per 1000 live and Stillbirth

Causes of Death by sex and age:

Malignant Neoplasm of Brain: Female 1 (aged 50 years)

Other Malignant and lymphatic

Neoplasms: Female 1 (aged 47 years)
Male 2 (aged 68 and 76 years)

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous

System: Male 1 (aged 76 years)

Coronary Disease: Male 1 (aged 83 years)

Other Heart Disease: Male 1 (aged 91 years)

Ulcer of the stomach: Female 1 (aged 82 years)

Total Deaths: 8

SERVICE B.

Local Health Services.

The County Medical Officer is responsible for the care of mothers and young children, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing arrangements, Vaccinations and Immunizations, Ambulances, the Domestic Help Service and the Prevention Care and After Care of illness.

Generally the people of this area are served in these respects by the local nurse and one of the medical officers of the County whose work is arranged at the County Health Offices.

Ambulances in this area as in the County generally are run by the St. John Ambulance Society and volunteer drivers to whom this duty has been delegated by the County Council.

If necessary, recourse can be had to the various clinics held at Welshpool and Newtown or further afield to which patients can be referred by the County Medical Staff or the two local General Practitioners.

There is as yet no child Welfare Clinic in the Borough.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

- (1) WATER - An exceptionally dry summer and autumn was experienced throughout the whole of the Country, and so far as this District was concerned, the prolonged drought had most serious results.

The hitherto good yield from the Boreholes at Rhiewgoch became much reduced, and in order to supplement what could be pumped from these Boreholes, it was necessary to pump water from the River Camlad, and haul it to the Town Reservoirs, into which it was discharged, so that the needs of the population could be met. Needless to remark, this water was heavily chlorinated before it was allowed to mix with known safe water.

Although every economy was practised, it was necessary to haul 10,000 gallons per day from the 18th. November to the 15th. December. Great expense was caused through having to hire the tanker and labour used in hauling the water.

A serious burst in a 3" water main was located, and was repaired. This main, 140 yards long, has caused trouble in the past through unexpected bursts, and in view of its poor condition, and the fact that it is more than 70 years old, the Council has decided to renew it as early as possible. On the new main, a sufficiency of sluice valves and a meter will be installed, so that any waste of water may be more readily detected.

Apart from water used for domestic purposes, water is supplied to a school and School Canteen, a Slaughter House, and a number of agricultural premises. The Council has considered fixing meters and charging for quantities of water used to all properties except domestic dwellings. It is thought that much water will be saved if this method is adopted.

All water supplied is chlorinated. The Town water supply was connected to two new houses which were built by Private Enterprise and to two buildings used for agricultural purposes, and to twenty two new Council Houses.

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- (II)-(a) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - Detailed plans in respect of a new Sewage Disposal Plan have been prepared, and copies of these and all necessary particulars have been forwarded to the appropriate Ministry Department. It is hoped that this will be considered as most urgent. For a considerable number of years, crude sewage has been discharged into open ditches, and this practice, which gets worse from year to year, is still allowed to continue. Pollution of streams naturally occurs, and complaints are received from Dairy Farmers, whose animals have to drink from the stream at a point not far from where the sewage is discharged. These conditions are well known, and Ministry Officials have inspected the sewer outfalls.
- (b) RIVERS AND STREAMS - Apart from the proposals shown above under "Drainage and Sewerage", no action was necessary during the year to check the pollution of rivers and streams.
- (III) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - During the year, no conversions were made from conservancy to water carriage system. Owing to lack of sewage disposal facilities, conversions are not being encouraged.
- (IV) PUBLIC CLEANSING - No change. Domestic refuse is collected once a fortnight, and so is night-soil. There were no disinfections during the year.
- (V) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA - The District has been inspected systematically and at intervals as required, and where defects have been found, these have in all cases been remedied by informal action.
- (VI) SHOPS AND OFFICES - All Shops and Offices have been inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936. All were in satisfactory condition, and no action was necessary.
- (VII) CAMPING SITES -
- (1) No sites in the area were used for camping purposes during 1938.
 - (2) No licences in respect of Camping Sites have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by this Authority.
 - (3) Estimated number of campers resident in the Area at one time during the Summer Season, 1938 - None.
- (VIII) SMOKE ABATEMENT - Fortunately, nuisance from smoke does not occur in the area, so no action was necessary during the year.
- (IX) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - There is none in the area.
- (X) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - The area is fortunate, as not a single dwelling is infested with bed bugs.
- (XI) SCHOOLS - The only school in the area has modern amenities, and conditions are satisfactory.

SECTION D HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR.

- (I)(a) - Total number of houses inspected for housing defects -
(Under Public Health or Housing Acts) - 29
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose - 35
- (2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. NIL
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. NIL

- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 18
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 11.
- (5) REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. None.
- (6) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-
- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 -
(I) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:- NIL.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
(II) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied:- NIL
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936-
(I) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made:- NIL.
(II) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:- NIL.
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 -
(I) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made:- NIL.
(II) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or underground rooms having been made fit:- NIL.
- (7) HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.
- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year: NIL.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year: NIL.
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: NIL.
- (d) Cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: NIL.

NEW HOUSES.

During the year, two houses were built by Private Enterprise for occupation by agricultural workers, and in respect of these, the subsidy provided for under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, was granted.

Twenty Two houses were built by the Council during the year.

Housing Act, 1949 - Part II. Improvement Grants.

Number of dwelling houses brought up to standard during the year - Five.
Number of dwelling houses approved for bringing up to standard, (in some cases work has commenced) - Five.
Number of dwelling houses where plans and particulars were awaited: Six.

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SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY - The duties of supervising methods of milk production at Farms, and the inspection of premises used in connection with milk production, are carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

However, so far as distribution by Retailers is concerned supervision is exercised.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS - There is only one small Slaughter-house in the Area, and this is kept in a satisfactory condition. All shops and vans from which food is sold or distributed, are regularly visited, and during the year, all were kept in a cleanly state.

CARCASSES INSPECTED FROM 1st. JANUARY TO 31st. DECEMBER, 1955.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	224	Nil	8	1512	301
Number Inspected.	172	Nil	8	1306	278
All diseases except) Tuberculosis, Whole) carcasses condemned.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part) or organ was condemned.)	18	Nil	Nil	52	Nil
Percentage of the number) inspected affected with) disease other than) Tuberculosis.)	10.46	Nil	Nil	3.9	Nil
Tuberculosis only) Whole carcasses condemned)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part) or organ was condemned.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number) inspected affected with) Tuberculosis.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No meat marketing scheme Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in the District.

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

Pneumonia:	Female:	1	aged 5 years.
Whooping Cough:	Female:	2	" 5 & 7 years.
	Male:	2	" 7 & 9 "
Measles:	Female:	2	" 2 & 6 "
	Male:	1	" 10 years.

Total 8 cases.

There were no deaths from notifiable infectious diseases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

